

175 thus set a new stage -- the development of the natural
177 resources of the whole region.

433 This change-over from a subsistence economy to a
439 commercial economy involved the large-scale expansion of
648 traditional crops or the development of new commercial crops.

[436] It was stimulated by the introduction or expansion of a money
[487] economy, the flow of capital and the development of land and

• [61] sea transport. It was supported by Western technology,
methods of administration and systems of justice. This whole
process greatly affected the traditional institution, up-

175 setting the balance of a medieval world. The free, indi-

177 vidualist spirit of Western rule and commerce cut at the

[59] roots of traditional social life, undermining the corporate

[423] strength of family and village. But the most serious direct

[426] threat of the new economic forces was to the peasant's owner-
[566] ship of land. Expanding economies, new money taxes and

cheap imports meant better business than ever for the money

lender. Many peasants became ruined by debt and lost their

lands. Indebtedness and debt slavery were not new in South-

east Asia; the latter was fairly soon stamped out, but the

former now became much more widespread than before, resulting

in the creation of a landless proletariat.¹⁶

184 Characteristics of Current Southeast Asian Economy

In spite of all the differences among the countries
of Southeast Asia in the natural environment, ethnic

16. Harrison, op. cit., p. 210.